Explanatory Note

Men of distinction in different walks of life are not necessarily and not always aware of the value of their private papers. They destroy much of their useful correspondence in their lifetime, or leave them for destruction by their descendants. A sense of value has to be created among our leaders, scientists and men of letters regarding their activities as preserved in their own writings.

Proceedings:

The resolution was not taken up due to the absence of Dr. Das.

(12) Records of Religious Institutions

(a) Access to records of religious institutions

Resolution by U.P. Government

This Commission recommends that since the authorities of temples, gurdwaras, churches, khankahs, waqfs etc. possess important documents, they may be requested by Government to allow bonafide Research Scholars to consult those documents for their research purposes, and such scholars wherever possible may help these authorities, if necessary, to prepare their lists voluntarily.

Explanatory Note

Many religious institutions have in their possession old historical documents which are useful for reconstructing the history of the land. It is necessary to induce them at the Government level to open them for research. In this connection the State Government Departments dealing with these institutions could issue the necessary orders for executing this resolution.

State Archives and Departments of History of the Universities in their respective States could be of help in the listing. Such materials will be very useful for the National Register of Records.

Proceedings

Dr.K.P.Srivastava, Director, U.P. State Archives moved the motion. The house, after discussing the slow progress made in listing the records of various religious institutions for the National Register Programme, adopted the following resolution:

> Resolution VII This Commission appeals to the concerned authorities of Temples, Gurdwaras, Churches, Khankahs, Waqfs, etc. to allow bonafide research scholars to consult their documents for research purposes, and the scholars who are allowed access to these records may, if necessary, voluntarily prepare the lists of these records.

(b) Acquisition of manuscripts and papers in the possession of religious institutions

Resolution by Prof.O.P.Bhatnagar

Resolved that efforts be made to secure such documents concerning churches, mosques, and temples as may be helpful in throwing new light on social and religious history.

Proceedings

After the resolution was formally moved by Dr. Bhatnagar, Dr.Prasad explained its various implications. After some discussion the following modified resolution was passed:

> Resolution VIII This Commission appeals to the authorities maintaining the records of the temples, mathas, churches, mosques, gurdwaras etc. to ensure their proper preservation, and if possible, to deposit these documents with the various Archives or Learned Institutions for safe custody.